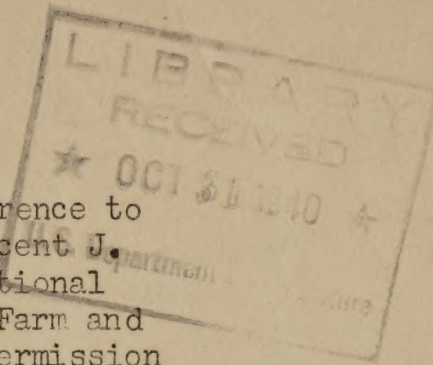


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RURAL LIFE

Radio address entitled "The Message of the Conference to the People of America" made by The Most Rev. Vincent J. Ryan, D. D., Bishop of Bismarck, President of National Catholic Rural Life Conference, on the National Farm and Home Hour on October 2, 1940. (Reprinted with permission of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.)



The rural problem is the crux of the social and economic problems of the nation. For this reason the entire nation should be vitally interested in the discussions of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The city as well as the country should be interested for the major social and economic problems of the city are rooted on the countryside.

Distress in agriculture always has its repercussions in the city. When thirty million farmers, for instance, lose their purchasing power, because of low prices or for other reasons, the wheels of industry slow down with resultant depression and unemployment. Again when unfavorable economic conditions or other causes impel millions to migrate from the country to the city, their presence in the city tends to lower wages, increase unemployment, and swell the slums. Wholesome conditions in agriculture are essential for wholesome conditions in the city.

In the short time allotted me I shall summarize briefly the credo of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The countryside offers the best opportunity for wholesome family life and for the nurturing of Christian virtue. Industrial life on the other hand seems hostile to the family, to Christian marriage, and to the nurturing of Christian virtue. It is in the city that divorce abounds. The city is the graveyard of the family. As early as 1934 it was discovered that the birth rate of the city had fallen to a point 20 percent below that necessary for a stationary population, while the rural areas had a birth rate more than thirty-five percent above the point necessary for a stationary population. Recent census reports indicate that in many cities in the United States, sixty percent of the marriages are childless. The dwindling birth rate, which today threatens the nation with eventual extinction, is enemy Number One, and the farm is the first line of our national defense.

The Conference believes in wide-spread ownership as the basis of security and independence. It believes that wide-spread ownership is the best antidote for Communism. It believes that farming offers the best opportunity for the masses to acquire ownership. The Conference believes in the family-size owner-operated farm. It believes that every effort should be put forth to discourage large-scale mechanized farming. Each farm of this type means the dispossessing of many rural families. It means overproduction of food stuffs. Large-scale mechanized farming results in soil mining and in the destruction of our most important natural resource, namely, the land.

For industrial workers, the Conference believes in promoting a system of part-time farming. Rural homesteads for industrial workers would provide



most of the necessities of life to augment the family income. The wholesome atmosphere of country life would also be a great benefit to the worker's family.

The Conference believes that the owners of industrial plants would be wise in helping their employees, wherever possible, to acquire homes of their own on small tracts for part-time farming. By so doing, they would be promoting their own interest as well as the welfare of their employees and the welfare of society.

The Conference believes in the readjustment of our tax structure so as to shift the unfair burden which now rests upon the farmer. The Conference believes that the readjustment of the tax structure should be made in such a way as to favor home ownership both in the city and in the country, and to discourage gigantic farming enterprises and the holding of large tracts of land for speculation.

For two generations urban-minded teachers and urban-tainted text books glorified the city in the class rooms of our rural schools. No attempt was made in our rural schools to impress the country boys and girls with singular blessedness of life on the land. The farmstead is the most interesting and intriguing laboratory in the world but there was no one to introduce our rural youth to its mysteries. Had these mysteries been unfolded to them and had they been trained to appreciate the special opportunities of farm life, they would have resisted the superficial attractions of the city. Many went to the city. Many who remained on the land made a failure of farming because the rural schools totally neglected to train them for successful farm operation.

The Conference believes that a special effort should be made to retain our more promising youths upon the land. At the same time the Conference is aware that in order to retain the better types on the land, it will be necessary to raise the economic and cultural status of farm groups. The Conference is committed to the belief that the right sort of education is the most important factor in the solution of the farm problem. The right sort of education for our rural youths will not only give them the knowledge and training necessary to make a success on the land, but it will also give them a love and appreciation of farm life.

The Conference believes that cooperatives, rightly organized, can do much to help secure justice for the farmers in buying and in selling, and will at the same time serve as a means of cultural development. If a cooperative is to succeed, the spirit of cooperation should proceed organization. A cooperative to be successful must rest upon the principle of mutual help as well as upon self-interest. The Conference believes that a successful cooperative is organized from the bottom and not from the top, and that its success will depend on the active, sustained, and intelligent interest of the members.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general description of the country and its resources. It is followed by a detailed account of the various industries and occupations of the people. The third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various towns and villages of the country. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various rivers and streams of the country. The fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various mountains and hills of the country. The sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various lakes and ponds of the country. The seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various forests and woods of the country. The eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various minerals and metals of the country. The ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various animals and birds of the country. The tenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various plants and flowers of the country. The eleventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various customs and manners of the people. The twelfth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various laws and regulations of the country. The thirteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various taxes and duties of the country. The fourteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public works and buildings of the country. The fifteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various educational institutions of the country. The sixteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various religious institutions of the country. The seventeenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various social and political organizations of the country. The eighteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various historical events of the country. The nineteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various geographical features of the country. The twentieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various climate and weather of the country. The twenty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various population and statistics of the country. The twenty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various language and dialects of the country. The twenty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various art and science of the country. The twenty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various music and dance of the country. The twenty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various sports and games of the country. The twenty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various festivals and holidays of the country. The twenty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various superstitions and beliefs of the country. The twenty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various legends and myths of the country. The twenty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various traditions and customs of the country. The thirtieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various literature and poetry of the country. The thirty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various drama and theater of the country. The thirty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various cinema and film of the country. The thirty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various radio and television of the country. The thirty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various internet and computer of the country. The thirty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various mobile phone and communication of the country. The thirty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various transportation and travel of the country. The thirty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various health and medicine of the country. The thirty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various food and drink of the country. The thirty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various clothing and fashion of the country. The fortieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various housing and shelter of the country. The forty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various security and defense of the country. The forty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various justice and law of the country. The forty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various education and learning of the country. The forty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various culture and heritage of the country. The forty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various environment and nature of the country. The forty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various economy and finance of the country. The forty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various industry and commerce of the country. The forty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various agriculture and farming of the country. The forty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various fishing and hunting of the country. The fiftieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various mining and extraction of the country. The fifty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various manufacturing and production of the country. The fifty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various construction and building of the country. The fifty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various infrastructure and development of the country. The fifty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various innovation and technology of the country. The fifty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various research and development of the country. The fifty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various education and training of the country. The fifty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various health and wellness of the country. The fifty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various social and community of the country. The fifty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various political and governance of the country. The sixtieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various culture and identity of the country. The sixty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various history and legacy of the country. The sixty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various future and vision of the country. The sixty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various challenges and opportunities of the country. The sixty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various strengths and weaknesses of the country. The sixty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various achievements and milestones of the country. The sixty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various lessons and experiences of the country. The sixty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various hopes and dreams of the country. The sixty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various faith and belief of the country. The sixty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various love and compassion of the country. The seventieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various peace and harmony of the country. The seventy-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various unity and solidarity of the country. The seventy-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various justice and equity of the country. The seventy-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various freedom and democracy of the country. The seventy-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various rights and responsibilities of the country. The seventy-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various values and principles of the country. The seventy-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various virtues and qualities of the country. The seventy-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various talents and abilities of the country. The seventy-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various passions and interests of the country. The seventy-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various dreams and aspirations of the country. The eightieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various goals and objectives of the country. The eighty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various plans and strategies of the country. The eighty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various actions and steps of the country. The eighty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various results and outcomes of the country. The eighty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various impacts and effects of the country. The eighty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various contributions and services of the country. The eighty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various sacrifices and sacrifices of the country. The eighty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various struggles and hardships of the country. The eighty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various triumphs and victories of the country. The eighty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various setbacks and failures of the country. The ninetieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various lessons and insights of the country. The ninety-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various reflections and thoughts of the country. The ninety-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various conclusions and findings of the country. The ninety-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various recommendations and suggestions of the country. The ninety-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various acknowledgments and thanks of the country. The ninety-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various dedications and commitments of the country. The ninety-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various promises and pledges of the country. The ninety-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various prayers and wishes of the country. The ninety-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various blessings and good wishes of the country. The ninety-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various love and affection of the country. The hundredth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various peace and prosperity of the country.

The Conference recognizes the need and value of government intervention to alleviate the ills of agriculture. At the same time it recognizes the limitations of government help. There is a tendency on the part of the farming group to rely too much on the government. The Conference has frequently announced that if the farmer is ever to get out of his difficulties, he must go out on his own power. While some assistance is needed from government, cooperation and education are the chief instruments to be used by the farmer in arriving at a condition of security and independence.

A spiritual motive lead to the organizing of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. It was founded to bring religion to the spiritually neglected in the rural sections of the nation. Spiritual motives will always dominate the programs and activities of the Conference. The Conference realizes that you cannot have a wholesome rural life which is not founded basically upon religion.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Farm Security Administration  
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The Commission has been very busy in the last few days. It has been holding a series of meetings to discuss the various matters which have been referred to it. The Commission has also been receiving a number of reports from the various departments of the Government. It has been very busy in the last few days. It has been holding a series of meetings to discuss the various matters which have been referred to it. The Commission has also been receiving a number of reports from the various departments of the Government.

A detailed report will be submitted to the Commission of the various matters which have been referred to it. It will be submitted to the Commission of the various matters which have been referred to it. It will be submitted to the Commission of the various matters which have been referred to it. It will be submitted to the Commission of the various matters which have been referred to it. It will be submitted to the Commission of the various matters which have been referred to it.

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